



NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY

Project Management Office

Richard A. Johnson, Project Coordinator
15 South Fifth Street – Suite 210
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Office 612-342-4001
Fax 612-342-4000

June 13, 2003

Commissioner Dan McElroy
Department of Finance
State of Minnesota
400 Centennial Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center – Capital Budget Request

Dear Commissioner McElroy:

We are submitting our capital budget request for the Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center. The Minnesota Planetarium and Space Discovery Center will be developed as part of the new Minneapolis Public Library, ancillary retail and underground parking.

In June 2001 the City of Minneapolis and the Library Board of Trustees submitted a capital budget request of \$30 million for the Planetarium. Funding for the Planetarium was approved by the 2002 Minnesota Legislature but later vetoed by then Governor Ventura along with a large number of other capital requests. The City and Board are expected to approve the re-submission of the capital request for the Planetarium during the next month.

We look forward to working with appropriate State staff in discussing our request and answering any questions you may have. Please contact me at 612 334-1671 to coordinator staff discussion of this budget request.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Johnson
Project Coordinator

Enclosures

MINNESOTA PLANETARIUM & SPACE DISCOVERY CENTER
2004 Capital Budget Request
6/15/03

1. **POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:** City of Minneapolis/Minneapolis Library Board
2. **PROJECT TITLE:** Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center
3. **PRIORITY:** #1 or 1 requests
4. **LOCATION:** Downtown Minneapolis
5. **TOTAL PROJECT COST:** \$163, 650, 000
6. **REQUEST FOR STATE FUNDS in 2004:** \$ 24, 000, 000
7. **ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED:**
for subsequent costs/phases in 2006 0
8. **ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS REQUESTED:**
for subsequent costs/phases in 2008 0
9. **NON STATE FUNDS CONTRIBUTED:** \$138, 650, 000 (local)
10. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION/RATIONALE:** see enclosed
11. **OWNER & OPERATOR of FACILITY:**

The Minneapolis Library Board will own the land and building upon which the Planetarium will sit. The operation and ownership of the Planetarium itself will be determined before the start of the 2004 legislative session.

12. **TOTAL PROJECT COSTS for the PLANETARIUM:** \$ 28, 150, 000

- ☐ Land Acquisition - 0
- ☐ Predesign – \$150,000
- ☐ Design – \$2, 500,000
- ☐ Construction – \$17, 500,000
- ☐ Furniture/Fixtures/Equipment - \$8, 000, 000
- ☐ Relocation - 0

13. **SQUARE FOOTAGE REQUESTED:** 35,000-sq. ft.

14. **PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

- ☐ Begin Construction – 3/05 for the Planetarium. (Construction of the Library proper began in 5/03)
- ☐ End Construction- 6/06 for the entire project

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15. STATE OPERATING DOLLARS REQUESTED: 0

16. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM GOVERNING BODY:

The City Council and Library Board Actions from 2001/02 are attached. Approvals by the City and Library Board for the 2004 request are anticipated shortly.

17: CONTACT PERSON:

Richard A Johnson, Project Coordinator
New Central Library Project Office
15 S. 5th Street
Suite 210
Minneapolis, MN 55402

612 334-1671 (o)
612 342-4000 fax
richard.a.johnson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

10. PROJECT DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE:

The Minneapolis Library Board and City of Minneapolis jointly request \$24,000,000 in State funding (this number may be revised downward) from the 2004 State Bonding Bill to design, construct, furnish and equip a new Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center to serve as a local, regional and Statewide educational destination where students and the general public can learn about Earth and its relationship to the Universe.

Key features will include:

- ☐ A 70 foot diameter, 250 seat planetarium theater for 3D, full-dome immersion "star shows";
- ☐ The North Star Observatory, which will allow students and the general public to explore the universe through interactive workstations connected to remote telescopes and orbiting satellites;
- ☐ The Space Exposition Hall for traveling exhibits on the most recent developments in space exploration and astronomical discovery;
- ☐ Virtual Immersive Environments that will allow students and the general public to experience simulated space environments, such as the surface of Mars.

The Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center will be developed as part of the new Minneapolis Central Library Project that includes the new Central Library, ancillary retail, and parking. In November 2000, the voters of Minneapolis approved a referendum for \$110 million for the Central Library Project. The State has previously appropriated \$1.0 million for predesign and design activities for the Planetarium. The City and Library Board are requesting the State to fund an additional \$24 million for the Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center and will seek \$15.5 million in private-sector contributions (\$12.4 million in support of the new Central Library and \$3.1 million for the Planetarium) and sponsorship of exhibits and equipment to fund the balance of the project costs. The Library Board will provide the land and the City and Board have agreed to provide \$1.8 million in funding to provide the additional structural capacity to allow the planetarium to be located on top of the new Central Library. The City has also issued \$11.2 million in bonds to construct two levels of underground parking.

As a local, regional and statewide facility the Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center will:

☐ **Serve as a state-of-the-art educational resource for Minnesota students.**

The primary mission of the Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center will be to immerse children in an atmosphere that inspires awe and curiosity about science. Children will emerge from the Planetarium with a desire to learn more about the universe and their place in it. In addition, the facility will highlight the earth sciences that are central to most school districts' core curriculums.

The State of Minnesota has demonstrated its interest in creating and expanding educational attractions by providing capital support to the Science Museum of Minnesota, Minnesota Children's Museum and the Minnesota Zoo. Like the future Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center, these facilities are attractions for residents and visitors from throughout the state, but most importantly promote discovery and learning.

☐ **Be more accessible to schools and students from Greater Minnesota.**

Today, about 80 percent of visitors to the Minneapolis Planetarium do not reside in Minneapolis. The new Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center will continue that tradition but greatly expand the appeal and accessibility for students, teachers and families from Greater Minnesota

- **Dwell-time.** - The existing Minneapolis Planetarium offered a one-hour experience for visitors, which was a deterrent for groups from beyond the metro-area. The proposed facility would offer visitors a three-hour experience, which can be extended even further through joint programming with the Library.
- **Resource Center.** The Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center's space resource center will assist Minnesota teachers in the development of science modules for classroom use.
- **Outreach.** The portable "star lab" will equip staff educators to visit schools, parks and community centers in Greater Minnesota.

☐ **Complement other metro area attractions.**

The Twin Cities area is renowned for its cultural attractions. However, the only resource that was focused on space was the Minneapolis Planetarium. The Minnesota Science Museum, which is the most similar in content and spirit, has explicitly chosen not to include astronomy among its featured themes. The Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center will fill a clear void and effectively complement other attractions.

The only other public planetarium in Minnesota is a 40' theater in Hibbing, which lacks the 3D-immersion technology and supplemental, interactive exhibits of the proposed Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center.

☐ **Be a compelling destination for tourists.**

The Rose Center in New York and Adler Planetarium in Chicago have demonstrated that a well-designed, iconic planetarium can be a major draw for regional, national, and even international tourists. Preliminary research anticipates a sustainable attendance of 250,000 annually at the Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center. It will be one of the elite planetaria in the U.S. and the premier planetarium in the upper Midwest.

❑ **Serve as a showcase for Minnesota's technology leaders.**

Minnesota has a rich legacy of technological innovation and discovery. The new Minnesota Planetarium & Space Discovery Center will be a cutting edge resource for Minnesota's business and technology leaders.